A.D. 1765 . . . . . N° 824.

SPECIFICATION

OF

JOHN WILKINSON.

FLOATING BATHS AND CORK JACKETS OR FLOATS.

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WILKINSON'S SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, JOHN WILKINSON, of the Parish of Saint James, Westminster, in the County of Middlesex, Doctor in Physick, send greeting.

WHEREAS I, the said John Wilkinson, did, by my Petition, humbly represent unto His present most Excellent Majesty King George the Third, that I had, at great labour, study, and expence, discovered methods of "PREPARING MEDICATED BATHS, TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON FRAMES FOR FLOATING ON THE RIVER THAMES OR ELSEWHERE, ADAPTED TO THE CURES OF MANY DISEASES, NOT TO BE REMEDIED BY OTHER KNOWN MEANS; TOGETHER WITH FLOATS MADE OF CORK, IN FORM OF SEAMEN'S WAISTCOATS OR OTHERWISE, TO BE USED THERE OR ELSEWHERE TO PREVENT DROWNING, AS ALSO BY SEAMEN OR PERSONS USING THE SEA IN TIME OF SHIPWRECK OR OTHER ACCIDENTS ON WATER, IN A MANNER NEVER PRACTISED BY ANY OTHER PERSON OR PERSONS WHATSOEVER UNTIL THE DISCOVERY THEREOF MADE SIX YEARS AGO BY ME;" that I, strongly beleiving my said discoveries would be of the utmost use for restoring the health and preserving the lives of many of His said Majesty's subjects and others, I did, therefore, most humbly pray His Majesty that he would be graciously pleased to grant unto me, my executors, administrators, and assigns, His Royal Letters Patent, under His Great Seal of Great Britain, for the sole right and

property in the said medicinal baths and cork floats, throughout that part of His Kingdom of Great Britain called England, His Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, for the term of fourteen years, pursuant to the Statute in that case made and provided; His said Majesty, being willing to give encouragement to all arts and inventions which might be for the publick good, was graciously pleased to condescend to my request, and therefore, by His Royal Letters Patent, bearing date at Westminster, the Seventh day of February, in the fifth year of His reign, of His especial grace, certain knowledge, and meer motion, for Himself, His heirs and successors, did give and grant unto me, the said John Wilkinson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, his especial licence, full power, sole privilege and authority, that I, the said John Wilkinson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, and every of us, by myself and ourselves, or by mine and our deputy or deputies, servants and agents, or such others as I, the said John Wilkinson, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend my said Invention within that part of His said Majesty's Kingdom of Great Britain called England, His Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, in such manner as to me, the said John Wilkinson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or any of us, should in our discretions seem meet; and that I, the said John Wilkinson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should and lawfully might have and enjoy the whole profit, benefit, commodity, and advantage from time to time coming, growing, accruing, and arising by reason of the said Invention, for and during the term of years therein mentioned, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said licence, powers, privileges, and advantages therein-before granted or mentioned to be granted unto me, the said John Wilkinson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, for and during and unto the full end and term of fourteen years from the date of the said Letters Patent next and immediately ensuing, and fully to be compleat and ended according to the Statute in such cases made and provided; in which said Letters Patent is contained a proviso that if I, the said John Wilkinson, should not particularly describe and ascertain the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, by an instrument in writing under my hand and seal, and cause the same to be inrolled in His said Majesty's High Court of Chancery within four kalendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent, that then the said Letters Patent, and all liberties and advantages whatsoever thereby granted, should utterly cease, determine,

and become void, anything therein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

NOW KNOW YE, that in compliance with the said proviso, I, the said John Wilkinson, do hereby describe and ascertain the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, as follows (that is to say) :—

Floating baths are to be constructed in such a manner as to float upon the water, that the bathers may either bath in seperate baths, or in the river water received fresh by the current perpetually. Or these baths are prepared with mineral or vegetable infusions, sea water, or other ingredients, as cases may severally require.

The cork jackets, or waistcoats, or floats are to prevent being drowned, for the use of those who bathe, or more especially for saving the lives of seamen and others in shipwreck, as first proposed by me in my book called The Seaman's Preservation. These jackets are made so as to be of the easiest, most convenient, and most effectual form, by a sufficient quantity of proper cork being cut into suitable peices for the purpose, and so sewed or fastened by the means of or in waistcoats or jackets or otherwise as to be plyant and easy to wear and effectual to support in a proper manner any person or persons in the water, so that he, she, or they may not be drowned. The pieces of cork are commonly round, oval, oblong, or square, as may be chosen; but when somewhat rounded they are generally most easy to the wearer, and may have their outward edges pared off to give additional flexibility to the jacket, and the greater their number is the smaller they will of course severally be, and of consequence the more complyable to the motions of the body of the wearer, as their subdivisions or bending places will become by that means the more numerous.

In witness whereof, I, the said John Wilkinson, have hereunto set my hand and seal, the Twenty-fifth day of May, in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty-five.

JOHN WILKINSON. (L.S.)

Signed and sealed (being first duly stamped) in the presence of us,

HEN. ROOKE.
MILES CROSBY.

LANE.

AND BE IT REMEMBRED, that on the said Twenty-fifth day of May, in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, the aforesaid John Wilkinson came before our said Lord the King in His Chancery, and acknowledged the Writing aforesaid, and every thing therein contained, in form above said. And the said Writing was stamped according 5 to the Statute made in the sixth year of the reign of the late King William and Queen Mary, and so forth.

Inrolled the said Twenty-fifth day of May, in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, 1765.

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